

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 2:20-cv-1859

\$8,393.00 IN UNITED STATES
CURRENCY,

Defendant.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE

AND NOW comes the United States of America, by and through its counsel Scott W. Brady, United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and David Lew, Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District, and respectfully represents as follows:

1. This is a civil action *in rem* for forfeiture to the United States of \$8,393.00 in United States currency (the “Defendant Currency”) pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6).
2. Jurisdiction is predicated upon 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 1355. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1395 and 1355.
3. On December 19, 2019, the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”) along with other law enforcement executed a search warrant at the residence of Jordan Michael Carter (“Carter”) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
4. During the execution of the search warrant, officers located, in an area of the residence used as a bedroom, quantities of cocaine and marijuana, along with indicia of narcotics trafficking, including three firearms and multiple cellular phones.

5. Officers also recovered from the same area of the residence \$8,393.00 in United States currency (the “Defendant Currency”), which was located inside a lockbox with the cocaine.

6. Carter agreed to be interviewed by investigators during the search of the residence.

7. Carter admitted to participating in a drug-trafficking enterprise and provided officers with details of the operation.

8. Carter admitted to trafficking in cocaine.

9. Carter further admitted that he was currently unemployed.

10. Based on the above-described investigation, investigators determined that the Defendant Currency was intended to be furnished in exchange for a controlled substance and/or represented proceeds of unlawful drug transactions.

11. The Defendant Currency was therefore seized by investigators pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6).

12. Following the seizure, the DEA instituted administrative forfeiture proceedings against the Defendant Currency. Carter filed a claim for the Defendant Currency in the administrative forfeiture proceedings. As a result, the United States has instituted this civil forfeiture action against the Defendant Currency.

13. Based on the foregoing, the Defendant Currency is forfeitable to the United States pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6) because it was furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for a controlled substance and/or constitutes proceeds traceable to an exchange for a controlled substance and/or was intended to be used to facilitate any violation of the Controlled Substances Act.

WHEREFORE, the United States respectfully requests that process of warrant *in rem* issue for the arrest of the Defendant Currency; that Judgment of Forfeiture be entered in favor of the United States for the Defendant Currency; and that the United States be granted such relief as this Court may deem just and proper, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Respectfully submitted,

SCOTT W. BRADY
United States Attorney

/s/ David Lew
DAVID LEW
Assistant U.S. Attorney
700 Grant Street, Suite 4000
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412-894-7482 (tel)
412-644-2644 (fax)
david.lew@usdoj.gov
PA ID No. 320338 (AFF)

VERIFICATION

I am a Special Agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the case agent assigned to this case.

I have read the contents of the foregoing complaint for forfeiture, and the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I verify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this 1 day of December, 2020.

SA Ry P

Ryan Palso, Special Agent
Drug Enforcement Administration

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (b) County of Residence of First Listed _____ (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (c) Attorneys <u>David Lew, AUSA</u> <u>700 GRANT STREET, SUITE 4000, PITTSBURGH, PA 15219 (412) 894-7482</u> (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)	DEFENDANTS \$8,393.00 in U.S. Currency County of Residence of First Listed Defendant <u>Allegheny County</u> (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys _____ Attorneys (If Known) _____
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II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant) (For Diversity Cases Only) <table border="1" style="width:100%"><thead><tr><th></th><th>PTF</th><th>DEF</th><th></th><th>PTF</th><th>DEF</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Citizen of This State</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td><td>Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td></tr><tr><td>Citizen of Another State</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td><td>Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 5</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 5</td></tr><tr><td>Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td><td>Foreign Nation</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 6</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> 6</td></tr></tbody></table>		PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF	Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)				
CONTRACT <input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	TORTS PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	FORFEITURE/PENALTY <input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	BANKRUPTCY <input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIW C/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609	OTHER STATUTES <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from another district (specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): <u>Title 21 USC Section 881(a)(6)</u> Brief description of cause: <u>Forfeiture of proceeds related to drug trafficking</u>
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	DEMAND \$ _____	CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	(See instructions): JUDGE _____	DOCKET NUMBER _____
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DATE <u>12/01/2020</u>	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD <u>/s/ David Lew</u> DAVID LEW, Assistant U.S. Attorney
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____	AMOUNT _____	APPLYING IFP _____	JUDGE _____	MAG. JUDGE _____	
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JS 44AREVISED OCTOBER, 1993

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

THIS CASE DESIGNATION SHEET MUST BE COMPLETED

PART A

This case belongs on the ☐ Erie ☐ Johnstown ☒ Pittsburgh) calendar.1. **ERIE CALENDAR - If cause of action arose in the counties of Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, McKean. Venang**

or Warren, OR any plaintiff or defendant resides in one of said counties.

2. **JOHNSTOWN CALENDAR - If cause of action arose in the counties of Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield or Somerset OR any plaintiff or defendant resides in one of said counties.**3. Complete if on ERIE CALENDAR: I certify that the cause of action arose in _____ County and
that the _____ resides in _____ County.4. Complete if on JOHNSTOWN CALENDAR: I certify that the cause of action arose in _____ County
and that the _____ resides in _____ County.

PART B (You are to check ONE of the following)

1. ☐ This case is related to Number _____ Judge _____2. ☒ This case is not related to a pending or terminated case.

DEFINITIONS OF RELATED CASES:

CIVIL: Civil cases are deemed related when a case filed relates to property included in another suit or involves the same issues of fact or it grows out of the same transactions as another suit or involves the validity or infringement of a patent involved in another suit**EMINENT DOMAIN:** Cases in contiguous closely located groups and in common ownership groups which will lend themselves to consolidation for trial shall be deemed related.**HABEAS CORPUS & CIVIL RIGHTS:** All habeas corpus petitions filed by the same individual shall be deemed related. All pro se Civil Rights actions by the same individual shall be deemed related.

PART C

1. CIVIL CATEGORY (Place x in only applicable category).

1. ☐ Antitrust and Securities Act Cases
2. ☐ Labor-Management Relations
3. ☐ Habeas Corpus
4. ☐ Civil Rights
5. ☐ Patent, Copyright, and Trademark
6. ☐ Eminent Domain
7. ☒ All other federal question cases
8. ☐ All personal and property damage tort cases, including maritime, FELA, Jones Act, Motor vehicle, products liability, assault, defamation, malicious prosecution, and false arrest
9. ☐ Insurance indemnity, contract and other diversity cases.
10. ☐ Government Collection Cases (shall include HEW Student Loans (Education), VA Overpayment, Overpayment of Social Security, Enlistment Overpayment (Army, Navy, etc.), HUD Loans, GAO Loans (Misc. Types), Mortgage Foreclosures, **S.B.A.** Loans, **Civil** Penalties and Coal Mine Penalty and Reclamation Fees.)

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the entries on **this** Case Designation Sheet are true and correctDATE 12/01/2020 ATTORNEY ATTORNEY AT LAW /s/ David Lew DAVID LEW, Assistant U.S. Attorney

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS OF BOTH SIDES MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE CASE CAN BE PROCESSED.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

I. **(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, give only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.

(b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)

(c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".

II. **Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

III. **Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.

IV. **Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.

V. **Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts. Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

VI. **Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service

VII. **Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded. VIII. **Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.